

REMARKS

Claims 17-25 and 33 are currently pending in the application, as amended. Claims 16 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation application. The present Amendment After Final Rejection cancels rejected claims 16 and 34, rewrites allowable claims 17, 20, 23 and 24 into independent form and retains allowed claim 33 and allowable claims 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25, which are dependent upon claims 17, 20, 23 and 24, respectively. Support for the amendments to claims 17, 20, 23 and 24 can be found in originally filed claims 16, 17, 20, 23 and 24. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application as a result of the above-described amendments.

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment After Final Rejection be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 714.13, because: (1) no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment After Final; (2) the Amendment After Final addresses and resolves issues raised by the Examiner in the final Office Action; (3) the subject matter of the Amendment After Final has already been included in the Examiner's search and, therefore, does not require the Examiner to perform further searching; (4) the Amendment After Final places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal and (5) the Amendment After Final does not result in a net addition of claims to the application.

CLAIMS

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,471,915 (Levin). The Examiner also rejected claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,397,427 (Howard).

Claims 16 and 34 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the above-described rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 33 and indicating that claims 17-25 include allowable subject matter. As was described above, Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 16 and 34 and rewritten claims 17, 20, 23 and 24, which claims 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25 are dependent upon, into independent form, resulting in allowed claim 33 and allowable claims 17-25 being the only claims currently pending in the application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment After Final Rejection and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including allowable or allowed 17-25 and 33, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such actions respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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